

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 16, with the following amended paragraph:

The first end 32 of the first sleeve 30 has a first threaded inner ~~surface-36~~ surface 35 with threads extending in a first or right-hand direction. The first end 62 of the second sleeve 60 has a second threaded inner ~~surface-66~~ surface 65 with threads extending in a second or left-hand direction.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 9, line 19, with the following amended paragraph:

The turnbuckle assembly 20 serves as an adjuster to fix the effective axial length of a tie rod 16, as shown in Fig. 1, by controlling the axial spacing between oppositely threaded first and second threaded parts or tie rod members 120 and 122 of the tie rod. The threaded part 120 (Figs. 3 and 4) threadably engages the threaded inner ~~surface-36~~ surface 35 of the first end 32 of the sleeve 30. The threaded part 122 (Fig 3) threadably engages the threaded inner ~~surface 66~~ surface 65 of the first end 62 of the sleeve 60. When the threaded parts 120 and 122 are threaded into the sleeves 30 and 60 to establish the desired axial relationship therebetween, the clamps 38 and 68 are tightened to clamp the ends 32 and 62 of the sleeves 30 and 60 to the threaded

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parts 120 and 122. When the integral clamps 38 and 68 are tightened, a compressive force is exerted radially between the threaded inner surfaces ~~36 and 66~~ 35 and 65 of the sleeves 30 and 60 and the engaged threads of the tie rod members 120 and 122.